

Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDL
Draft Outline - Outreach Strategy
EPA Draft - January 8, 2001

Background

The environmental purpose of the Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDL is to understand the sources of total dissolved gas and temperature loadings and to allocate those loadings based on numeric water quality criteria in order to meet state and tribal water quality standards. This is a task that will require careful coordination, cooperation, and management by all parties involved in this effort.

The complexity of the governance system is profound, involving Federal agencies, state agencies, Tribes, private entities, and Public Utility Districts. No single agency or Tribe can assert its jurisdiction and achieve a successful outcome. For example, total dissolved gas travels across international borders, through tribal and state jurisdictions, and is increased by passage over Federal, PUD, and private dams. The presence of high levels of total dissolved gas is harmful to fish and aquatic life. High water temperatures are even more complex in understanding causes and identifying solutions.

Message

A Columbia/Snake River Mainstem TMDL is being developed to help restore the Columbia River system. In this TMDL, EPA is taking the lead on developing temperature TMDLs and the States of Oregon, Idaho and Washington are taking the lead on total dissolved gas. This TMDL effort will require careful coordination and management by all parties. TMDLs are required under a court ordered settlement of a TMDL lawsuit filed by environmental groups. These TMDLS are particularly important environmentally, not only due to water quality problems, but also the presence of several salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Audience

Tribal Governments
NPDES Dischargers
Watershed Councils
PUDs
Utilities
Industrial Interest Group
Public Power Interest Groups
Agricultural Interest Groups
Forestry Interest Groups

Specific Groups: (not complete at this time)

Associated Oregon Industries
Northwest Pulp and Paper
Oregon league of Cities
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Cattlemens' Association

Water Quality Team

Tribal Coordination

Tribal Consultation

Model -

- share information
- distribution of report

Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Trout
Oregon Forest Industries Council
Oregon Metals Industry Council
Burns Paiute Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw
Coquille Indian Tribe
Klamath Tribes
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
National Marine Fisheries Service
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Northwest Power Planning Council
Bonneville Power Administration
Fish Passage Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Lower Columbia National Estuary Program
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Columbia River Alliance
Northwest Environmental Advocates
Oregon Governor's Natural Resource Office
Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt
Ports
Navigation
Irrigation Companies

Outreach to date

- Presentations in Portland - November 28, 2000 - Over 200 invitees
- Tribes - various meeting; November 2000 Spokane Workshop
- NMFS Implementation Team - January 11, 2001

Future outreach

- State outreach strategy
- Tribal outreach strategy
- Federal outreach strategy
- Nonfederal outreach strategy
- Web sites -

Schedule

Tools
Meetings - Broad
Brochures - Participate
Establish Forum - Specific
new or W.A.T.
- Web page
Fact sheets
Reg Update
topical